GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:458
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2003
FOREIGN SCHOLARS AND STUDENTS
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI;T. GOVINDAN

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued guidelines to all the central universities in regard to foreign scholars and students visiting India;

(b) if so, whether these guidelines have curtailed the academic freedom of foreign students as reported in the Indian Express dated March 26, 2003;

(c) if so, whether these guidelines are a setback to promoting education and foreign participation in the educational sector;

(d) if so, whether Government have reviewed these guidelines due to the stiff resistance from the academic community;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINIS OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) to (f) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 458 REGARDI FOREIGN SCHOLARS AND STUDENTS BY SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI AND SHRI T. GOVINDAN

(a) to (f): Guidelines have already been issued by the Cabinet Secretariat in December 1999 regarding clearance for study/research schemes involving foreigners/foreign collaboration from security/sensitivity angle and by the Ministry of Home Affairs in September 2000 regarding security clearance for holding international conferences/seminars/workshop/etc. in India. The guidelines issued by Ministry of Human Resource Development on 31st January 2003 mainly relate to the procedure to be observed by Central Universities to enter into an MoU with foreign Universities/Institutions with prior clearance from Ministry of Human Resource Development. These guidelines have neither curtailed academic freedom of foreign students nor are they a setback to promoting education and foreign participation in the education sector. At present there is no proposal to review the guidelines of January 2003.